

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T CAIRO 16515

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, UR, EG
SUBJ: VARTANOV CASE

REF CAIRO 15289,

1. FAHMY RAISED VARTANOV CASE WITH ME TODAY. HE HAD READ THE DOCUMENTS WHICH I HAD EARLIER GIVEN MOHAMED RIAD. HE CALIMED THAT HE HAD HIMSELF RAISED THE SUBJECT EARLIER TODAY WITH SOV AMB POLYAKOV, WHO HAD COME BY ON ANOTHER MATTER.

2. POLYAKOV, ACCORDING TO FAHMY, AGAIN CHARGED THAT US EMBASSY HAD "KIDNAPPED" VARTANOV'S AND TAKEN THEM OUT ON US MILITARY PLANE. HE HAD SHOWN FAHMY LITERARY GAZETTE ARTICLE, WHICH ACCUSED GOE AS WELL AS USG, FRG AND ITALY. FAHMY ASSERTED HE HAD TOLD POLYAKOV THAT THE SOVIETS WERE "STUPID" IN SEEKING TO MAKE A PUBLIC RELATIONS ISSUE OUT OF THE WHOLE AFFAIR. THE AMERICANS HAD NOT "KIDNAPPED" THE VARTANOV'S. THE VARTANOV'S' OWN SIGNED STATEMENT MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY HAD VOLUNTARILY ASKED FOR ASYLUM. NOR COULD HE ACCEPT THE LITERARY GAZETTE CHARGE THAT GOE WAS INVOLVED. IT WAS IN NO WAY INVOLVED. SAID HALIM, ALTHOUGH AN EGYPTIAN NATIONAL, IS UNHCR REP IN EGYPT AND HIS INVOLVEMENT WAS IN THAT CONTEXT.

3. IN RELATING ABOVE TO ME, FAHMY DID COMPLAIN (RATHER MILDLY) THAT WE HAD NOT TOLD HIM ABOUT THE VARTANOV INCIDENT.

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OFFICIALS IN VP MUBARAK'S OFFICE HAD BUNGLED HANDLING. I

RECALLED HE HAD EARLIER INDICATED HE DID NOT WISH TO BE INFORMED OF REFUGEE CASES. FAHMY DREW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN CZECH AND EAST EUROPEAN REFUGEES ON THE ONE HAND AND SOVIET REFUGEES ON THE OTHER. FAHMY ALSO THOUGHT THAT USING A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO TAKE THE VARTANOV'S OUT HAD BEEN A MISTAKE. THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT VIA TWA. HE COULD HAVE ARRANGED THAT THEY GET THROUGH THE AIRPORT IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES.

4. COMMENT: FAHMY DID NOT APPEAR TO BE PARTICULARLY UPSET ABOUT THE VARTANOV CASE. CHARGES OF GOE COLLUSION HAVE OBVIOUSLY ANNOYED HIM; HENCE, HIS SHARP REACTION TO THE SOVIET PROTEST.
EILTS

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NNN

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